

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 13-20 and add new Claims 21-24 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container, comprising the steps of:

setting a member for defining an airtight space together with a substrate to abut on the substrate;

~~supplying~~ disposing a linear seal bonding material ~~to, having a round cross-sectional area, along~~ a corner portion formed by ~~the substrate and~~ setting the member ~~on a portion to be the corner portion formed in the setting step~~ to abut on the substrate; and

~~after the step~~ at a state of setting the member to abut on the substrate, forming a closed bonding line by performing airtight bonding of each of the substrate and the member with the seal bonding material by locally heating the seal bonding material to a temperature equal to or higher than a temperature that allows the airtight bonding and then curing the seal bonding material.

2. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 1, wherein the step of forming the closed bonding line comprises performing the airtight

bonding of each of the substrate and the member with the seal bonding material for each small region at a time.

3. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate is one substrate of a pair of mutually opposing substrates, and the member is a frame fixed to the other substrate.

4. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 1, wherein the step of forming the closed bonding line is performed under a vacuum atmosphere.

5. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 1, wherein photoirradiation is used in performing the local heating.

6. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 1, wherein the seal bonding material is a low-melting point substance.

7. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 1, wherein the corner portion comprises a groove portion formed therein in the state where the setting step is performed.

8. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 1, further comprising forming a base film in a location where the seal bonding material is to be arranged, the base film being formed of a material having a good wettability with the seal bonding material.

9. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 8, further comprising heat-melting the seal bonding material indirectly by heating the base film.

10. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 1, wherein the seal bonding material which is supplied in the supplying step, in the corner portion or the portion to be the corner portion, is molded into a solid state.

11. (Original) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim 1, wherein when the seal bonding member, which is obtained as the seal bonding material solidifies at a predetermined position of the bonding line, is seen in cross section taken along a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the bonding line, in the corner portion formed by the substrate and the above-mentioned member, a penetration length of the seal bonding member penetrating between mutually opposed surfaces of the substrate and the above-mentioned member is shorter than a contact length over which the seal bonding member contacts the member.

Claim 12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim ~~12~~ 21, wherein the step of forming the closed bonding line comprises performing the airtight bonding of each of the substrate and the member with the seal bonding material for each small region at a time.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim ~~12~~ 21, wherein the substrate is one substrate of a pair of mutually opposing substrates, and the member is a frame fixed to the other substrate.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim ~~12~~ 21, wherein the step of forming the closed bonding line is performed under a vacuum atmosphere.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim ~~12~~ 21, wherein the corner portion comprises a groove portion formed therein in the state where the setting step is performed.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim ~~12~~ 21, further comprising forming a base film in a location where the seal

bonding material is to be arranged, and the base film being formed of a material having a good wettability with the seal bonding material.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to Claim ~~12~~ 21, wherein when the seal bonding member, which is obtained as the seal bonding material solidifies at a predetermined position of the bonding line, is seen in cross section taken along a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the bonding line, in the corner portion defined by the substrate and the above-mentioned member, a penetration length of the seal bonding member penetrating between mutually opposed surfaces of the substrate and the above-mentioned member is shorter than a contact length over which the seal bonding member contacts the member set to abut on the substrate.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus, comprising the steps of:

forming an airtight container for containing display devices by using the method of manufacturing an airtight container as set forth in Claim 1; and

forming the display devices.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus, comprising the steps of:

forming an airtight container for containing display devices by using the method of manufacturing an airtight container at set forth in Claim ~~12~~ 21; and forming the display devices.

21. (New) A method of manufacturing an airtight container, comprising the steps of:

setting a member for defining an airtight space together with a substrate to abut on the substrate;

supplying a seal bonding material of indium or indium alloy to a corner portion formed by the substrate and the member of a portion to be the corner portion formed in the setting step; and

at a state of setting the member to abut on the substrate, under a condition of heating the member at a temperature equal to or lower than 130°C, heating locally the seal bonding material to a temperature equal to or higher than a temperature at which the seal bonding member can perform bonded bonding,

wherein, the seal bonding material heated is then cured, so as to perform airtight bonding of each of the substrate and the member with the seal bonding material to form a closed bonding line.

22. (New) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to claim 21, wherein in the step of heating locally, the temperature at which the member is heated to is equal to or lower than 110°C.

23. (New) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to claim 21 or 22, wherein in the step of heating locally, the temperature at which the member is heated to is equal to or higher than 90°C.

24. (New) A method of manufacturing an airtight container according to claim 21, wherein in the step of heating locally, the heating member is performed by heating the entire airtight container.